

PRESS Release

Immediate Release

Topic: Breast Cancer Prevention Opportunities
for Central Mississippi Women
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Discovering breast cancer early increases the chances of successful treatment for Mississippi women, according to state health officials.

The State Department of Health's West Central Public Health District encourages women 50-64 years of age to participate in the Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program during October – Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The program offers screening and early detection at no cost to eligible women in Copiah, Claiborne, Hinds, Issaquena, Madison, Rankin, Sharkey, Simpson, Warren, and Yazoo Counties.

To be eligible for this free program, women must have no Medicaid, private insurance, Medicare or other third-party payment source; must be 18 years of age or older for Pap smears; and must be 50 years of age or older for mammograms.

Breast screening and mammograms detect the presence of breast cancer in women. Some women have special risks for breast cancer:

- Tage 50 or older;
- Talready had breast cancer;
- Thave an immediate relative, such as a mother, sister, or daughter who had or has breast cancer;
- Tbad early onset of menstruation or late menopause;
- Tnever had a child or had first child after age 30.

Mississippi claims one of the nation's lowest rates of women who get adequate screening to detect breast cancer at an early, treatable stage. That underscores the importance of the Jackson Medical Mall screening site, which opened in July 1998.

For more information or to make an appointment for breast and cervical cancer screening services, women should call their local county health department.

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